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-AN A-P BROADCAST INFORMATION PACKAGE-

REPORTERS AND THE C-I-A

(WASHINGTON) -- THREE VETERAN REPORTERS TOLD THE SENATE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT LAWS TO GOVERN ACTIVITIES OF U-S INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES SHOULD NOT REGULATE THE NEWS MEDIA.

THE SENATORS AGREED THAT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NEWS ORGANIZATIONS AND SUCH AGENCIES AS THE C-I-A IS A ''GRAY AREA.'' AND THEY CONCEDED THEY FACE GREAT DIFFICULTY IN TRYING TO WRITE ANY LEGISLATION ESTABLISHING FIXED RULES AND STANDARDS.

THE SENATE PANEL SOUGHT THE NEWSMEN'S VIEWS ON ITS PROPOSED DRAFT OF A CHARTER AIMED AT PREVENTING ABUSES BY U-S INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES.

THE NEWSMEN WHO TESTIFIED WERE A CAPITOL HILL REPORTER FOR U-P-I, NICHOLAS DANILOFF; WASHINGTON BUREAU CHIEF OF THE LOS ANGELES TIMES JACK NELSON; AND FORMER C-B-S REPORTER DANIEL SCHORR.

THE NEWSMEN CONCEDED THAT CONGRESS HAS THE AUTHORITY TO DRAFT LAWS TO KEEP INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES FROM SECRETLY RECRUITING REPORTERS AS UNDERCOVER AGENTS -- OR ALLOWING AGENTS TO MASQUERADE AS JOURNALISTS. THEY SAID SUCH PRACTICES IN THE PAST HAVE LED TO A PALL OF SUSPICION BEING CAST OVER MANY AMERICAN JOURNALISTS WORKING IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

BUT THE NEWSMEN ALSO EMPHASIZED THAT THEY CONSIDER INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES LEGITIMATE SOURCES OF INFORMATION. AND THEY SAID REPORTERS SHOULD BE FREE TO ESTABLISH CONTACTS, AND NEWS SOURCES, WITHIN THEM.

(END B-I-P, REPORTERS AND THE C-I-A)

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